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SANTA CLARA

Honda secures \$900,000 in federal funds for SCU effort to build 'world-class' library

Santa Clara University is a step closer to funding its new state-of-the-art library with \$900,000 in federal funding secured by U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose. The \$900,000 was included in the \$397.4 billion spending bill President Bush signed late Thursday.

The university wants the new library to be "a world-class resource where our faculty and students can gather information from around the world in unprecedented volume," said SCU official Jim Purcell.

The federal money is earmarked for library technology, technology infrastructure and "smart" classrooms at the Jesuit university.

SCU is in the midst of a \$350 million capital campaign to build a \$76 million library and \$40 million business school, support scholarships and endow 18 new teaching positions.

SAN JOSE

Teacher is 300th to get housing loan through city

An Oak Grove High School band instructor became the 300th San Jose teacher to take advantage of a 4-year-old city program that helps teachers secure loans and housing assistance to buy their first home.

Chris Moura and his wife, Theresa, were presented a housewarming gift by Mayor Ron Gonzales to mark the milestone. Gonzales proposed the program when he took office in 1999.

The program provides eligible teachers with up to \$40,000 in interest-free down payment assistance, and has now doled out \$12 million in loan assistance.

Moura said he was both lucky and grateful.

"There was no doubt in our minds we wanted to stay in San Jose," Moura said, "but because of this area's high cost of living, we had to consider moving somewhere cheaper."

For more information about the program, visit www.sjhousing.org/program/thp.html or call (408) 277-8486.

Local author to discuss memoir with community

Silicon Valley Reads: One Book, One Community, will hold its final community discussion Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the book "Breaking Through" by local author Francisco Jimenez.

The book is a memoir about Jimenez's battle with poverty and prejudice as a Mexican immigrant. He is now chairman of the Modern Language Department at Santa Clara University. Tuesday's event will feature Jimenez and Professor Lou Hoscher, chair of the Mexican American Studies Department at San Jose State University. Hoscher will moderate a panel discussion with several San Jose State professors to compare

immigrant experiences with the author.

The free event will be at the San Jose State Student Union's Umuhum Room. Paid parking is available in the new city Fourth Street garage at Fourth and San Fernando streets.

For more information visit www.siliconvalleyreads.org.

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